The Jacobins appear to be the strongest in the Conseil des Anciens, as appears by the rejection of the petition for the examination into abuses.

The ministers seem to go *au devant de mes souhaits;* but they have overdone it, for they have named three *chefs de bureau* to treat with me. I wish they were three *chefs de cuisine** My apartment here, in the Maison des Etrangers, is very dear, and I shall remove from thence as soon as I return from my tour, or know that I am to stay here some time.

I dined to-day with Madame de Laborde.

November 21st, 1796.

I have been with the minister this morning, and have carried the point as to seeing Sir Sidney Smith. My letter for his release is also laid before the *Directoire Executif,* and I hope will have its effect upon them. I shall probably have an interview with some of them officially, or by way of conversation. I have also obtained a passport for Major Gall, who sets out with his two

daughters
in a day or two, and will take this packet.

I heard a thing to-day which hurts me very